

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 216863

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TBIO, JA, CA, UR

SUBJECT: INTERIM CONVENTION ON CONSERVATION OF NORTH
PACIFIC FUR SEALS: DISPOSITION OF FUR SEAL SKINS

1. FUR SEAL SKINS TAKEN ANNUALLY ON ALASKAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG U.S., CANADA, AND JAPAN. U.S. IS CHANGING MANNER IN WHICH IT DISPOSES OF ITS SHARE OF THESE SEAL SKINS IN ORDER TO SELL THEM IN RAW RATHER THAN PROCESSED CONDITION. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPRISE OFFICIALS IN COUNTRIES CONCERNED WITH FUR SEAL MATTERS OF THIS CHANGE DRAWING UPON FOLLOWING:

A. ARTICLE IX OF INTERIM CONVENTION ON CONSERVATION OF NORTH PACIFIC FUR SEALS PROVIDES THAT CANADA AND JAPAN SHALL EACH RECEIVE FROM U.S. 15 PERCENT OF THE GROSS IN NUMBER AND VALUE OF SEAL SKINS TAKEN COMMERCIALY EACH SEASON ON LAND ON PRIBILOF ISLANDS. ARTICLE ALSO PROVIDES THAT SUCH SKINS SHALL BE DELIVERED AT END OF HARVESTING SEASON AT PLACE OF TAKING OR AT SOME OTHER PLACE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES. IN PAST, EACH COUNTRY'S SHARE OF THE SEAL SKINS WAS DISTRIBUTED AT ST. PAUL ISLAND IN THE PRIBILOFS. THE U.S. SUPPLY SHIP UNDERSCORE M/V PRIBILOF END UNDERSCORE THEN DELIVERED EACH COUNTRY'S SHARE TO SEATTLE FOR RAIL SHIPMENT TO GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR PROCESSING BY FOUKE COMPANY.

B. U.S. HAS DECIDED THAT ITS SHARE OF THE SEAL SKINS FROM THE 1974 COMMERCIAL HARVEST ON THE PRIBILOFS WILL BE SOLD IN RAW CONDITION ON OPEN MARKET RATHER THAN PROCESSED UNDER CONTRACT WITH FOUKE COMPANY. THIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE.

C. WHILE THIS WILL CHANGE PROCEDURES USED BY U.S. TO DISPOSE OF ITS SHARE OF THE SEAL SKINS, IT WILL NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE ANY CHANGE IN THE MEANS USED BY CANADA AND JAPAN. HOWEVER, IF CANADA AND JAPAN WISH TO CONTINUE HAVING SEAL SKINS DELIVERED FOR PROCESSING AT THE FOUKE COMPANY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO ARRANGE DIRECTLY FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM SEATTLE WHICH IS POINT WHERE SEAL SKINS CAN CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED TO U.S. MAINLAND ABOARD UNDERSORE M/V PRIBILOF END UNDERSORE. OF COURSE, CANADA AND JAPAN COULD ALSO ARRANGE SHIPMENT DIRECTLY FROM ST. PAUL ISLAND BY OTHER AVAILABLE MEANS.

2. FOR OTTAWA: PLEASE NOTIFY E.B. YOUNG, COMMISSIONER, NORTH PACIFIC FUR SEAL COMMISSION AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND MARINE DIRECTORATE, FISHERIES AND MARINE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, OTTAWA.

3. FOR TOKYO: PLEASE NOTIFY K. FUJIMURA, COMMISSIONER, NORTH PACIFIC FUR SEAL COMMISSION AND PRESIDENT, JAPAN FISHERIES RESOURCE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, TOKYO; AND YONEZAWA, JAPANESE FISHING AGENCY.

4. FOR MOSCOW: FOR INFORMATION ONLY PLEASE NOTIFY DR. V. A. ZEMSKY, COMMISSIONER, NORTH PACIFIC FUR SEAL COMMISSION AND CHIEF, MARINE MAMMAL LABORATORY, ALL-UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MARINE FISHERIES AND OCEANOGRAPHY, MOSCOW. INGERSOLL

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